

against the cartridge locating recess 15 in the breech face of the slide. The larger caliber case head 29 is positioned by guides 31 and captured by extractor 26. When converted to sub-caliber use, the case head of a sub-caliber cartridge is not positioned by guides 31. However, considerable experimentation has shown that a sub-caliber cartridge will function equally as well as a larger caliber cartridge without modification of the cartridge locating recess 15. The chamber of the sub-caliber barrel 16 acts as a centering device for the sub-caliber case. When the sub-caliber case is chambered, the chamber of the barrel fixes the location of the case head 30 so that extractor 26 can capture the rim. Upon firing of a round, the extractor extracts the spent case from the chamber. The sub-caliber case is dragged backwardly in a straight line which is on line with the center of the bore. The extraction occurs so rapidly that the rim 30 of the sub-caliber case remains intact in the extractor 26 and against the face of the cartridge locating recess until the case head is brought into contact with the ejector 28 on the frame 10 which results in the ejection of the spent sub-caliber case from the ejection port of the slide.

The conversion of the larger caliber pistol to its sub-caliber counterpart or vice versa is effected rapidly. To change from the larger caliber to a sub-caliber, one need merely follow the same procedure as when stripping the pistol for cleaning or repairs. The larger caliber magazine is removed, followed by rotating the larger caliber barrel bushing and removing the recoil spring plug. The slide is retracted, the slide stop pin is removed, and the slide is removed from the frame along with the larger caliber barrel, recoil spring and barrel bushing. The larger caliber recoil spring, barrel and barrel bushing are separated from the slide. The sub-caliber barrel 16 is inserted into the slide 14 along with the barrel bushing 17, which may or may not be different and sub-caliber recoil spring 22. This assembly is inserted on the frame 10 with the sub-caliber barrel 16 being connected to the frame 10 by a pivotal link as was the larger caliber barrel. The slide is moved forward into position and the recoil spring plug is inserted and captured by the sub-caliber barrel bushing 17. The slide is cycled a few times by hand to make sure the converted sub-caliber mechanisms are operating properly and the sub-caliber maga-

zine is inserted into the handle. The conversion to a sub-caliber pistol is thus completed.

While the above description discloses a preferred embodiment of the invention, it is to be understood that numerous modifications or alterations may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the following claims.

I claim:

1. An interconvertible sub-caliber automatic pistol of the breech block type comprising the frame, handle, single pieced slide, ejector and firing mechanism of a larger caliber pistol interconnected with,

(a) an interchangeable barrel of a sub-caliber slidably mounted in the slide and detachable secured to the frame by a pivotal connecting link,

(b) an interchangeable barrel bushing detachable mounted into the forward end of the slide and appropriately sized to surround and support the forward end of the sub-caliber barrel,

(c) an interchangeable recoil spring in the forward end of the slide below the barrel interposed between the front end of the slide and the frame sufficiently tensioned to hold the slide and barrel in a forward position but which allows the slide and barrel to recoil in the normal manner upon the firing of a sub-caliber cartridge thereby ejecting the fired cartridge, cocking the firing mechanism and reloading another cartridge into the chamber of the barrel, and

(d) an interchangeable magazine adapted to hold sub-caliber cartridges mounted in the handle.

2. An interchangeable sub-caliber automatic pistol according to claim 1, wherein the cartridge locating recess in the breech face of the slide is that of the larger caliber and the extractor in the slide is flexibly cambered so as to capture and extract both larger and sub-caliber cartridges.

3. An interconvertible sub-caliber automatic pistol according to claim 2, wherein the larger caliber pistol is a 0.45 and the sub-caliber is a 0.38 special.

4. An interchangeable sub-caliber automatic pistol according to claim 3, wherein the larger caliber pistol is a Colt Government Model .45.

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